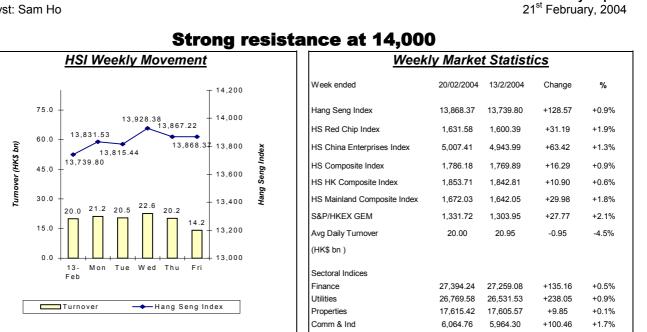


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HONG KONG RESEARCH

Weekly Report

#### **Review & Outlook of Market Performance**

Hong Kong stocks failed to test the 14,000 level this week amid a weak Wall Street performance and further share-placement news. Sentiment was dampened a bit on talks that China Telecom's parent may help the listco raise funds for purchasing its networks by placing and subscribing for shares equivalent to 10% of existing issued capital. Investors seemed to have ignored the positive news that Beijing may allow its social security fund to invest in overseas equities and that Hong Kong was believed to be the priority market. In addition, the latest unemployment figure for November-to-January period (7.3%, unchanged) was not encouraging. The HSI finished the week at 13,868.37, up 0.9% or 128.57 points, with an average daily turnover of HK\$19.72 billion.

During the week, several major companies announced their results, including Hang Lung Properties, Standard Chartered Bank and Legend. Shares of Hang Lung Properties declined 5.1% w-o-w to HK\$11.25 although it reported an in-line-with-market-expectations interim results and received good response for its high-rise luxury development project at Kowloon Station. Standard Chartered (HK\$136.00, +0.4% w-o-w) was largely stable after reporting a better-than-expected 21% rise in net profit for 2003. On the other hand, share of Legend plunged 10.1% w-o-w to HK\$3.325 after the company reported only a meagre growth in its Q3 earnings.

On the broader market, IT firm Culturecom shot up 51.6% to close the week at HK\$0.485, after it said it had confidence in returning to the black this year as investment over the past few years would start to bear fruit. However, property agent Midland Realty plummeted 20.7% on week to HK\$2.30 after it issued profit warning saying it expected its 1<sup>st</sup>-half results to be adversely hit after some big developers cut commission on new-home sales.

Next week, investors should keep track on the release of some important US economic figures (CPI, consumer confidence and new-home sales). At home, CLP and Wing Lung Bank will be announcing their respective results on next Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February whilst HKEx will announce its results next Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Moreover, the February HSI futures contract will be expired on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Next week, the closing of the application for the IPO of China Oriental is expected to freeze billions of dollars rendering another low turnover trading week. We see the HSI to hover between 13,600 and 13,950, with a strong resistance at 14,000 level.

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## US & Regional Markets Weekly Update

Date	US	US	JAPAN	SINGAPORE	MALAYSIA	BANGKOK	TAIPEI
	Dow Jones	Nasdaq	Nikkei Avg	STI	KLSE Index	SET Index	Weighted Index
Week to							
20th February	10,619.03	2,037.93	10,720.69	1,891.78	861.72	728.64	6,665.54
13th February	10,627.85	2,053.56	10,557.69	1,864.07	825.91	755.18	6,549.18
Change	-8.82	-15.63	+163.00	+27.71	+35.81	-26.54	+116.36
%	-0.08%	-0.76%	+1.54%	+1.49%	+4.34%	-3.51%	+1.78%

# Index Weighting Changes (week ended 20<sup>th</sup> February 2004)

#### Hang Seng Index (HSI)

Stock	Stock Code	Closing Price @20/02/04	W-O-W Changes		Remarks / Comments
			Absolute	%	
TVB	0511	HK\$38.60	-HK\$1.80	-4.5%	The city's main TV broadcaster fell prey to profit taking this week after rising over 7% last week.

### Hang Seng China Enterprises Index (HSCEI)

Stock	Stock Code	Closing Price @20/02/04	W-O-W Changes		Remarks / Comments
			Absolute	%	
Angang Newsteel	0347	HK\$4.325	+HK\$0.225	+5.5%	Cheered by the overwhelming response to the IPO of steel maker China Oriental
Maanshan Iron & Steel	0323	HK\$2.85	+HK\$0.50	+7.5%	Group, the dual were pushed higher by investors.
China Eastern Airlines	0670	HK\$1.83	+HK\$0.19	+11.6%	The 2 airliners continued last week's run- up on the scrap of the airport construction
China Southern Airlines	1055	HK\$4.65	+HK\$0.50	+12.0%	and development fees. The CAAC said it would introduce some new fees but at a much lower rate than the previous fees.
China Telecom	0728	HK\$2.925	-HK\$0.150	-4.5%	The mainland fixed-line operator faced heavy selling pressure as its state-owned parent is talking with several investment banks about new fund raising, with a probable US\$3-billion share placement.

## Summary of US Economic News

Indicator	Change/Index	Comments
Industrial production - January	+0.3% m-o-m	Production at factories rose by a modest 0.3% in January, an improvement from December's 0.1% rise.
Housing starts - January	-7.9% m-o-m	Housing starts in January fell a sharper-than-expected 7.9% to a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 1.903 million from a downwardly-revised 2.067 million rate in December.
Index of leading indicators - January	+0.5% m-o-m	Composite index of leading economic indicators rose 0.5% in January to 115 following gains of 0.2% in December and 0.3 % in November.
Consumer price index - January	+0.5% m-o-m	Consumer price index rose by 0.5% in January, more than double December's 0.2% increase. Excluding the energy and food prices, the core rate of inflation edged up by a mild 0.2% in January, up from a 0.1% rise in December.



## Forthcoming Important Announcements / Events

and an			
23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2004 (Monday)	ΗK	:	Consumer price index- January
			Pacific Century Insurance (0065)- final results
			People's Food (0708)- final results
			SW Kingsway Capital (0188)- interim results
			Wumart Stores (8277)- final results
	US	:	Campbell Soup- Q2 results
24 <sup>th</sup> February 2004 (Tuesday)	ΗK	:	abc Multiactive (8131)- final results
			ASM Pacific (0522)- final results
	US	:	Consumer confidence- February
			Clear Channel- Q4 results
			Home Depot- Q4 results
25 <sup>th</sup> February 2004 (Wednesday)	ΗK	:	CLP (0002)- final results
			IDT International (0167)- Q3 results
			Wing Lung Bank (0096)- final results
	US	:	Existing-home sales- January
			Tiffany & Co- Q4 results
26 <sup>th</sup> February 2004 (Thursday)	ΗK	:	External-trade figures- January
			Clear Media (0100)- final results
			HKEx (0388)- final results
			Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels (0045)- final results
			Hopewell Holdings (0054)- interim results
			Hopewell Highway Infrastructure (0737)- interim results
			Recruit Holdings (8073)- final results
			San Miguel Brewery (0236)- final results
			Shimao China (0649)- final results
	US	:	Durable-goods orders- January
			New-home sales- January
			Dreyer's- Q4 results
			Gap Inc- Q4 results
			JC Penny- Q4 results
27 <sup>th</sup> February 2004 (Friday)	HK	:	Shandong Weigao Group Medical Polymer (8199)- trading debut
			Tong Ren Tang (8069)- final results
			Weigiao Textile (2698)- final results
	US	:	GDP (Preliminary)- Q4
	US	:	GDP (Preliminary)- Q4